



CALIFORNIA FLY FISHERS UNLIMITED

Since 1962, Sacramento's Oldest Fly Fishing Club

P.O. Box 162997 • Sacramento, CA 95816

FEB 09 2006 00167

February 6, 2006

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP) DEIR/EIS.

Our organization does not support the current project as proposed in your environmental document and strongly opposes diversions of any additional water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta at this time.

California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU) is a fly fishing and conservation club that represents over 220 conservationists in the greater Sacramento/Northern California area. We are actively involved in furthering the sport of fly fishing and protecting the fisheries resource of California.

Recently a combined team of state and federal experts announced a major decline in the Delta smelt, longfin smelt, threadfin shad and juvenile striped bass over the most recent four year period. They also indicated alarming declines in plankton species that these small fish and in turn larger fish depend upon. One of the key factors that they attributed to these declines is the increased exportation of water out of the Delta. Though further studies are underway, answers to this critical problem are yet undetermined.

Moving ahead with the SDIP that will increase Delta water exportation makes no sense when Delta fish populations are crashing. Please withdraw the SDIP DEIR/S until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and fully resolved.

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Page 2 of 2

FEB 09 2006 00167

Significant impacts on other northern California rivers, like the Trinity and Klamath Rivers are a real possibility due to potential diversions to the Delta to compensate for increased exports. These diversions would have additional impacts on an already troubled fishery in those watersheds.

CFFU strongly urges you to withdraw the SDIP DEIR/EIS and to stop any projects that would increase Delta exports until the current crisis in the Delta ecosystem is effectively and completely resolved.

Sincerely,



Bill Felts
President

FEB 09 2006 00168

January 30, 2006

Director Lester A. Snow
California Department of Water Resources
1416 - 9th Street, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: South Delta Improvement Project (SDIP)

Dear Director Snow:

I am a homeowner in Discover Bay, California. The SDIP proposing 4 dams that will span end to end on selected canals allowing the pumping of an additional 5,000,000 gallons of water per day to Los Angeles and other Southern California locations will rob our fragile delta environment of more fresh water. This additional enormous outflow of fresh water being sucked out of the Delta will cause the salt water to intrude further into the Delta, degrading the water quality and lowering the water level.


I don't think anyone can argue that during our last drought, the pumping to Southern California had a very negative impact on the water quality of the Delta. The existing pumping changes the natural tidal flow of the area. With the capacity to pump 5,000,000 more gallons a day, the impact could be catastrophic.

I doubt that the Southern California backers of this plan have little or no regard for the impact of the project for homeowners like me. Hi tide swings due to winter rain and restrictive water flow caused by the dams will cause major damage to our levees, homes and docks. During the summer months when we have low tide combined with the capability to pump another 5,000,000 gallons of water each day will cause the delta in my area to see ultra low areas and mud bottoms.

I have a home that is worth \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 on a fresh water bay in Discovery Bay, California with access to all the delta. Increase salinity and decreased water depth will destroy the value of my home.

Please, kill this project before it kills the Delta!

Sincerely,



Charles W. Helfrick, C. P. A.

CWH:st

cc: Paul Marshall ✓
Mike Riehl
John Beuttler
State Senator Don Perata
State Senator Tom Torlakson
Assembly Member Guy Houston
State Senator Abel Maldonado
State Senator Joseph S. Simitian
Assembly Member Rebecca Cohn
Assembly Member Ira Ruskin